

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04036 251648Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536

UNCLAS MOSCOW 4036

DEPT PASS DHEW FOR DR. ROBERT FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, OCON, UR, US
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE US-USSR HEALTH AGREEMENT: 03.00

1. DURING A MEETING MARCH 24 AT THE MOH ON OTHER BUSINESS, DR. SHCHEPIN, MINISTRY SPECIALIST ON ALCOHOLISM, RAISED WITH EMBOFF THE AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF THE BILATERAL HEALTH AGREEMENT. HE STATED THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN EARLY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF AREAS OF COOPERATION AND WISHED TO KNOW U.S. THINKING ON THE SUBJECT.

2. SHCHEPIN ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION ON DR. COOPER'S SUCCESSOR AS U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, NOTING THAT THE MOH WOULD LIKE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW US CO-CHAIRMAN SOON TO COORDINATE THE POSITIONS OF THE U.S. AND THE USSR DELEGATIONS TO THE UPCOMING WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE BEGINNING MAY 2 IN GENEVA.

3. WE ARE SURPRISED AT THIS INTERVENTION BY SHCHEPIN, WHO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HAS NEVER BEEN CONCERNED PREVIOUSLY WITH THE HEALTH AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO HAVE AUTHORITY TO RAISE THESE ISSUES AND WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT DR. SAVEL'YEV WAS PRESENT AT THE MOH MEETING ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.

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RM WE REQUEST DHEW GUIDANCE ON RESPONSE TO SHCHEPIN'S INQUERIES.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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